

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 21-0730
Client's Docket No. AMC3133

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **RONALD J. ROTHSTEIN**, a citizen
of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
MANAGEMENT APPARATUS of which the following is a
specification:



MANAGEMENT APPARATUS

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to management devices and more particularly pertains to a new management apparatus for allowing a parent to limit the amount of time a specific user is allowed access to an electronic device.

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Description of the Prior Art

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The use of management devices is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 5,331,353 describes a device for limiting the amount of time an electrical appliance such as a television may be used. Another type of management device is U.S. Patent No. 5,051,837 details a home entertainment equipment control apparatus.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that allows the parent remote access via a telephone for changes in programming as needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by the incorporation of an internal modem.

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Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new management apparatus that is capable of coupling to a number of different electronic devices or appliances simultaneously.

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Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new management apparatus that is simple to use making access to even young children feasible.

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To this end, the present invention generally comprises an enclosure that has an interior space. A controller for processing a plurality of electronic operations is positioned in the interior space. An alphanumeric display displays information and is attached to the front side of the enclosure. A keypad for inputting numerical data is attached to the front side of the enclosure. A modem positioned in the interior space of the enclosure. A phone jack is attached to the second side of the enclosure. A power cord is attached to the second side of the enclosure. A plurality of receptacles allows coupling of electrical cords from electrical devices. A cover member covers the first end of the enclosure and is releasably attachable to the first end by a plurality of fasteners.

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There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that

will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic top view of a new management apparatus according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic end view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention.

Figure 4 is an electrical block diagram of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new management apparatus embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the management apparatus 10 generally comprises an enclosure 12 that has a front side 13, a first end 14, and a second end 15. The enclosure 12 has an interior space 16. The first end 14 includes a middle section 17 recessed from outer edges 18 of the first end 14 such that a ledge is defined.

A controller 20 for processing a plurality of electronic operations is positioned in the interior space 16 of the enclosure 12.

An alphanumeric display 22 for displaying information to the user and the parent is attached to the front side 13 of the enclosure 12. The display is electrically coupled to the controller 20.

A keypad 24 for inputting numerical data is attached to the front side 13 of the enclosure 12. The keypad 24 includes a plurality of buttons 25. Each of the buttons 25 has a number indicia 26 thereon. The keypad 24 is electrically coupled to the controller 20.

A modem 28 for transmitting and receiving verbal commands from the parent via a telephone is positioned in the interior space 16 of the enclosure 12. The modem 28 is electrically coupled to the controller 20.

A phone jack 30 for allowing the parent to selectively couple a phone line 31 to the enclosure 12 is attached to the second side of the enclosure 12. The phone jack 30 is electrically coupled to the modem 28.

A power cord 32 is attached to the second side of the enclosure 12. The power cord 32 is electrically coupled to the controller 20.

A plurality of receptacles 34 for allowing the parent to selectively couple at least one electrical cord 35 from an electrical

device 36 to the enclosure 12 is integrally coupled to the first end 14 of the enclosure 12. Each of the receptacles 34 is electrically coupled to the controller 20.

5 A cover member 38 for covering the first end 14 of the enclosure 12 includes an end wall 39 and a peripheral wall 40 that is attached to and extends away from the end wall 39. The cover member 38 is releasably attachable to the first end 14. Dimensions of the cover member 38 inside the peripheral wall 40 is generally equal to outside dimensions of the middle section 17 of the first
10 end 14 of the enclosure 12 such that inner edges 41 of the peripheral wall 40 abut the ledge when the cover member 38 is attached to the enclosure 12.

A front portion 42 of the peripheral wall 40 has a plurality of slots 43 extending therethrough. Each of the slots 43 extends from
15 the inner edge of the front portion 42 of the peripheral wall 40 towards the end wall 39 such that the electrical cord 35 from one of the electronic devices 36 may pass through one of the slots 43 when the cover member 38 is attached to the enclosure 12.

A plurality of fasteners 46 for securing the cover member 38
20 to the enclosure 12 is positioned adjacent outer ends 44 of the end wall 39 of the cover member 38.

The parent may program the controller 20 for an allotted amount of time each specific user may operate the electronic device 36 during a specific time period once the user has put in a security
25 code allowing them access.

The parent may access the controller 20 remotely via the telephone through the modem 28 to modify programming of the controller 20.

30 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the

invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form,
function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed
readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all
equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and
5 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by
the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of
the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous
10 modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the
art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the
scope of the invention.